

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 944

By Hensley

A RESOLUTION to commend Courtney Shelton upon receiving a Prudential Spirit of Community Award and for her meritorious service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to salute those young citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as emerging community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Courtney Shelton is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Courtney, an esteemed resident of Lawrenceburg and senior at Lawrence County High School, has achieved national acclaim for her exemplary record of volunteer service, gaining recognition as a 2008 Prudential Spirit of Community Award Distinguished Finalist; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious award, presented by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), honors young volunteers across America who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to serving their respective communities and encourages all young Americans to contribute to their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards is part of a broad youth-service initiative by Prudential that includes a youth leadership training program administered by the Points of Light and Hands On Network, a free booklet of volunteer ideas for young people offered through the Federal Citizen Information Center, and a Web site that offers countless support to young volunteers; and

WHEREAS, this program is the largest youth recognition program based solely on volunteer service and all public and private middle and high schools in the country, Girl Scout councils, county 4-H organizations, American Red Cross chapters, YMCAs and volunteer centers are eligible to nominate a student or member for a local award; distinguished finalists and state honorees are chosen from the local honorees based on personal initiative, creativity, effort, impact, and personal growth; and

WHEREAS, Courtney Shelton was chosen as a Distinguished Finalist in the program in recognition of her laudable efforts to initiate a campaign called "Christmas Wishes," which has volunteers collecting donations of toys, books, blankets, clothes, and other comfort items for children who are removed from homes that have operated methamphetamine labs; and

WHEREAS, Miss Shelton is also utilizing her outstanding leadership talents and speaking skills as she visits area schools to educate students on the dangers of methamphetamine; and

WHEREAS, Courtney Shelton has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, as a Distinguished Finalist, Courtney will receive an engraved bronze medallion at a locally held ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Miss Shelton's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Courtney is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, the success of this State, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people like Miss Shelton, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend and honor Courtney Shelton as a 2008 Distinguished Finalist in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, recognizing her outstanding record of volunteer service, peer leadership, and community spirit and extending our best wishes for her continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.